

HOW TO... Protect your PC for free

Keep your PC safe from all manner of internet threats with the free software on this month's cover disc. David Fearon explains how to use it

KASPERSKY INTERNET SECURITY 6



You're no doubt aware of the dangers that lie behind the friendly face of the internet. These have multiplied as it has reached a worldwide audience, and you need protection from viruses in emails, files and even webpages; email spam; spyware infestations and hackers trying to penetrate your PC.

Kaspersky Internet Security deals with all these. As well as standard virus protection, Kaspersky has a Proactive Defense module that looks for general suspicious application behaviour and allows it to capture 'zero-day' virus attacks for which there's no specific cure in the usual anti-virus definition updates.

The free 180-day version is on this month's cover disc, so you can fire up the installation routine from there.

1 We wouldn't usually go into the details of an installation routine, but Kasperky's sophisticated protection needs a little more attention during installation than most. You get the opportunity to install the complete suite of protection features or just the anti-virus features. If you choose the Complete option you can safely choose the defaults in the installation windows that follow.

Kaspersky installs its own firewall, known as Anti-Hacker, which can conflict with Windows Firewall, so during installation you'll be informed of this and given the option of keeping Windows' firewall instead. If you choose to let Anti-Hacker take precedence, you'll eventually get to the screen shown here, allowing you to view the applications already on your system that need network access. Click on the Applications tab to

view these, and investigate any that you don't recognise. The simplest way to do this is to put their exact names into a Google search.

2 Once installation is complete, you'll see the registration screen. Don't dismiss this by hitting 'Activate later', since you'll need to activate the trial version to receive virus-definition updates over the internet. So make sure you're connected to the internet and select Activate trial version. The activation should take only a few seconds, after which you'll be fully protected for six months.

3 If you've chosen to run the Anti-Hacker firewall, you'll see this prompt in the System Tray area when Kaspersky finds your network adaptor. The three radio button options go in order of security: if you're using a wireless hotspot in public you should make sure Internet (block file and printer sharing) is checked, otherwise other people could access your shared files. The most dangerous option is Trusted Network, which you should leave alone unless you know exactly what you're doing; the default Local Network option is best for home networks.

4 Once the basic setup is finished, click on Kaspersky's System Tray icon to get to the main configuration screen, from where you can configure all seven of the application's individual security components.

If you're worried at any point that your PC might have become infected and you don't want to wait for a routine scan to check your system, click the Scan icon on the left. Check the C: drive

box and hit Scan for a complete system-disk virus check; Kaspersky itself will also prompt you to perform a complete scan after installation so you can start with confidence.

5 Click back on the Protection tab to see the complete list of modules again. In general Kaspersky's security options are best left at their default settings since they provide a good level of defence. The one aspect that benefits from tweaking is the anti-spam filter. Click the Anti-Spam entry at the bottom, then the green Settings tick icon at the top of the window, which takes you to this screen.

6 All anti-spam filters can sometimes be prone to generating false positives; in other words, marking genuine emails as spam. The first thing you should do is add all your important senders – such as your family and bank email addresses – to your white list so that they'll never be marked as spam. Click Add and you can enter either a complete address – such as editor@computershopper.co.uk – or just use the asterisk wildcard character. This matches any characters in that position, so for instance *computershopper.co.uk will mean any email from a computershopper.co.uk address will always get through.

Once you've added all your important addresses, click OK in the Custom Settings box. When you start up your email program (Kaspersky can protect Outlook Express, Office Outlook and the freeware email client The Bat), you'll need to set Kaspersky to send spam messages to the folder of your choice. **CS**

